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| Proposal Title | Urgent Response in Defense of Women's Health – Planned Parenthood Action Fund |
| Reserve Fund | U.S. General Reserves (21105) |
| Amount Requested | \$1,500,000 |
| Detail on Amount Requested (Optional) | |
| Background (Optional) | <p>Over the last three weeks, Planned Parenthood has come under attack from anti-abortion extremists who have spent years laying the groundwork for a sophisticated smear campaign aimed at discrediting the organization and cutting off the public funding it currently receives for providing health care services. While Planned Parenthood has been attacked before, this latest attempt is unprecedented in its scale and scope. Opponents created a fake company, filed false tax documents, and used fraudulent government IDs to gain the trust of Planned Parenthood doctors and clinicians and try to entrap them, using secretly obtained and deceptively edited videos. One of the founders of this fake company is the head of Operation Rescue, the extremist organization whose members have been linked to clinic bombings and the murder of Dr. George Tiller.</p> <p>Abortion opponents in Congress and in statehouses are using the deceptive videos to make the case for defunding Planned Parenthood, and more videos may yet be released. The U.S. Senate voted on a defunding proposal on Monday, but failed by five votes to stop a filibuster. Many Republicans in both chambers, however, have vowed to strike Planned Parenthood funding from the annual spending bills that will be negotiated in the fall, even threatening to shut down the government to get their way. At the same time, governors and state legislatures around the country are signaling similar battles to come over state funding.</p> <p>Planned Parenthood receives over \$500 million in federal funding, through Medicaid and other public health programs, to provide health care services, primarily to low-income women. An end to that funding would be devastating to the organization and the people it serves.</p> <p>Sixty percent of the 2.7 million women, men, and young people who depend on Planned Parenthood for care participate in federal programs. Defunding would mean that 1.6 million of their patients</p> |

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| | would be cut off from basic preventive services like contraception, cancer screenings, and STI testing and treatment. Moreover, Planned Parenthood is often the only way the uninsured and the most vulnerable can access these services. Six in ten women who visit these health centers consider Planned Parenthood their main source of health care. Defunding would also force the closure of many clinics. With more than half of their health centers located in medically underserved areas, this would be devastating. For example, if Planned Parenthood could no longer serve patients on Medicaid, their 20 health centers in Ohio would be reduced to just three. |
| Risks (Optional) | |
| Unforeseen Need (250 words) | <p>While Planned Parenthood has had to defend against a variety of attacks by abortion opponents in recent years, the release of these videos and the related attacks were severe and without warning. Countering this offensive requires an enormous amount of resources and staff time, which is the intent of the opposition. Planned Parenthood is waging its defense at the federal and state levels through its Fight Back Campaign, which it projects will cost \$7 to 8 million. The elements of the campaign include:</p> <p>Security – PP is providing heightened security to key staff and doctors, especially those who were targeted in the videos. Additionally, PP has retained a consulting firm specializing in cyber security to help fend off cyberattacks on its website and web properties and to strengthen its systems.</p> <p>Communications – Working with top crisis communications consultants, PP is conducting national and state media outreach to both expose the true agenda of its opponents and transform the narrative surrounding these attacks, including forensic analysis of doctored tapes. Additionally, PP is recruiting and training patients to tell their stories about the care they received at Planned Parenthood, and are running targeted television ads to educate constituents in key districts about these attacks and ask them to stand with PP.</p> <p>Organizing and Congressional support – PP is rallying its supporters and activists across the country to speak out online and on the ground, to demonstrate the overwhelming public support for Planned Parenthood and the work it does. This includes digital ad buys and a major social media presence. PP is also mobilizing its 8 million supporters to contact members of the House and Senate over the coming weeks, through patch through calls and volunteer phone banks.</p> |

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| | Legal – PP has retained the law firm of O’Melveny & Myers to help prepare for and defend against a major congressional investigation, as well as countless other investigations at the state level, particularly in Texas. |
| Activities Proposed (500 words) | In the several weeks since the attack began, leading up to the Senate vote, Planned Parenthood used up nearly all of its lobbying resources, so its greatest need for the campaign outlined above is an immediate infusion of c4 funding. Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood, has recently secured a commitment for \$2 million in c3 funds, with strong prospects for more on the c3 side. Funding for lobbying activities, however, is much harder to come by, so OSPC is uniquely situated to provide a critical resources PP will have a hard time finding anywhere else. We are awaiting a detailed description of the c4 activities they want to employ, but they will focus on persuading legislators at the state and federal level to vote against defunding measures. We expect the activities to include: organizing and mobilizing patients, medical professionals and other allies; patch-through calling; paid and earned media; and phone banks. |
| Summary for Board Reports (100 words) | This \$1.5 million grant provided an infusion of 501(c)(4) funding to Planned Parenthood Action Fund (PPAF) as they were waging a critical defense against attacks to the reputation and credibility of Planned Parenthood and potential loss of federal funding. This emergency funding enabled PPAF to implement its multipronged Fight Back Campaign to mobilize grassroots and grasstops supporters and lobby Congress to counter attempts to defund Planned Parenthood at the federal and state levels, and to continue providing critical reproductive health care services across the country. |
| Collaborating Programs within OSF and essential partners or grantees | <u>OSF</u> Open Society Policy Center Women’s Rights Program U.S. Programs <u>External</u> Democracy Alliance Hewlett Foundation |
| Contributions expected from Collaborating Programs (250 words) | OSPC-enabled staff of the DC Office, the Women’s Rights Program and U.S. Programs will be the primary points of contact for PPAF during the course of this grant. U.S. Programs will collaborate as the Planned Parenthood Federation of America is a long-time U.S. Prorgams grantee. |
| Who within OSF would guide work | Caroline Chambers, Deputy Director and Senior Domestic Policy Advisor, OSPC Cynthia Eyakuze, Director, Women’s Rights Program Elisa Slattery, Senior Program Officer, Women's Rights Program |

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| Allocator <i>(See list on Reserve Funds KARL)</i> | Name | Ken Zimmerman, Director, US Programs |
| | Date Approved | |
| Allocator Notes / Comments <i>(To be completed by allocator only)</i> | (Notes/Comments - Optional field) | |
| | <p>(Criteria checklist)</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Is this an <u>unforeseen</u> opportunity or a genuinely new idea to advance core open society commitments? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the need time-sensitive? <input type="checkbox"/> Are we proposing to do something that others are not doing? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the plan compelling? <input type="checkbox"/> Does the planned activity take good advantage of OSF capacity? <input type="checkbox"/> Is the team leading the work up to the task? | |
| Urgency level for grant approval & payments | <input type="checkbox"/> Not Rapid Response | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rapid Response <i>(See procedure on KARL)</i> |
| If approved, where to allocate the budget? <i>(If the budget is split between multiple programs, please copy/paste this section as needed.)</i> | Amount | \$1,500,000 |
| | Category of Work | CDC021 |
| | Division/Program Code | 52110 |
| | Entity (i.e., FPOS, ZUG) | OSPC (FPR) |
| | Fund Class (i.e., Lobbying/Non-Lobbying) | Lobbying |
| | Geography (of benefit) | United States |